AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for storing and securely managing important information for a user in a database, comprising:

storing synchronizing information, which changes when a portion of the important information is updated, in the database together with the important information, and encrypting the synchronizing information;

distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information in a plurality of predetermined places; and

combining and decrypting the synchronizing information stored in the predetermined places and determining whether the combined synchronizing information is identical to the synchronizing information stored in the database,

wherein said important information comprises digital rights management (DRM) information that indicates a number of use times permitted to a user, so as to enable effective performance of DRM, and

wherein the synchronizing information changes if at least a portion of the important information is updated.

2. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypting the synchronizing information comprises encrypting key-data used for encrypting and decrypting the synchronizing information.

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3. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information comprises distributively storing encrypted key-data in said predetermined places.

4. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypting the synchronizing information comprises encrypting the updated important information.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the encrypting the synchronizing information comprises encrypting key-data used for encrypting and decrypting the important information.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information comprises distributively storing the encrypted key-data in predetermined places.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the distributively storing the encrypted synchronizing information comprises distributively storing encrypted important information in said plurality of predetermined places.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the combining, and decrypting the synchronizing information stored in the predetermined places and determining whether the combined synchronizing information is identical to the synchronizing information

stored in the database comprises combining and decrypting the important information stored in

the predetermined places and determining whether the decrypted important information is

substantially identical to the important information stored in the database.

9. (withdrawn) A content file, comprising:

a header portion comprising key-data for synchronizing information and synchronizing

information distributively stored in a plurality of predetermined places of a hard disc; and

a data portion.

10. (withdrawn) The content file of claim 9, wherein said header portion further

comprises key-data for Digital Rights Management (DRM) information and DRM information

distributively stored in said plurality of predetermined places of a hard disc.

11. (withdrawn) The content file of claim 9, wherein said DRM information comprises a

number of use times permitted to a user.

12. (withdrawn) A content file, comprising:

a header portion comprising key-data for Digital Rights Management (DRM) information

and DRM information distributively stored in a plurality of predetermined places of a hard disc;

and

a data portion.

13. (withdrawn) The content file of claim 12, wherein said DRM information comprises a number of use times permitted to a user.

14. (canceled).